

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1035

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
ON THE DEATH OF DR. AUGUSTO "GUS" ORTIZ.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Dr. Augusto "Gus" Ortiz, champion of bringing healthcare to the poor
2 for more than fifty years, died in Tucson on December 16, 2006 at the age of
3 ninety.

4 Born in 1917 in Puerto Rico, Gus Ortiz came to the United States in
5 1941 to attend medical school at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
6 There, he met his future wife, Martha, and they both came to Arizona in 1953
7 when Gus was stationed at Luke Air Force Base.

8 In 1955, Dr. Ortiz opened a Phoenix medical clinic to assist farm
9 workers and other poor Arizonans. It was there that he and a young César
10 Chávez met and embarked on a lifelong friendship during which both fought to
11 better the lives of migrants and their families by advancing their rights and
12 providing better medical services. Dr. Ortiz helped achieve a ban in Arizona
13 against the use of the short-handled hoe that caused back problems for the
14 farm workers, and he also advocated for a pesticide ban.

15 In 1972, Dr. Ortiz began working for the University of Arizona College
16 of Medicine Rural Health Office, and in 1976, he started the mobile health
17 clinic that primarily aids poor and underserved people in the state's rural
18 communities. He and Martha drove the clinic to help people in such remote
19 places as Picture Rocks, which eventually built its own clinic and named it
20 the Ortiz Community Health Center in his honor. Dr. Ortiz and Martha were
21 awarded the Greater Tucson Leadership Award in 2002 for their outstanding
22 efforts.

23 In recognition of his tremendous contributions to providing medical
24 care to the poor, Dr. Ortiz was personally presented with the United States
25 Surgeon General's Medallion by Surgeon General Richard Carmona.

26 Dr. Gus Ortiz will be greatly missed by his family, friends and peers,
27 as well as the countless individuals he has helped over the years.
28 Therefore

29 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
30 Representatives concurring:

31 That the Members of the Legislature express sincere regret at the
32 passing of Dr. Augusto "Gus" Ortiz and extend their deepest sympathies to his
33 wife, Martha, daughters, Judith and Betty Jane, sons, Carl and Quintin, six
34 grandchildren and other surviving family members.